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SURGICAL LECTURES,

DELIVERED BY

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LECTURE 13.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the last Lecture I mentioned Mr. HUNTER's opinion respecting absorption, and as I am uncertain whether you understood me or not, I shall repeat it here; he said that absorption is a process set up to avoid a more serious evil, namely, mortification. I shall now speak of the

Different kinds of Ulcers, and the Treatment which they require.

When the reparation of an ulcer is carried on in a healthy manner, the granulations which fill up the chasm are small, conical in figure, and florid in appearance. They are florid, because the circulation goes on well in the part. But when the process of reparation is not carried on in a healthy manner, the granulations are large, flabby, flat on their surface, and of a bad colour. When this process is carried on in a healthy manner, the secretion from the surface of the sore is a good pus; and even when ulcers are *sinous*, as they say, you may judge of the state of the surfaces of the ulcer by the discharge which takes place; this is the information obtained by common observation.

When the process of reparation is not carried on in a healthy manner, the discharge varies exceedingly. Sometimes there is a watery discharge, called *ichor*; sometimes it is so acrimonious, that when it runs over the sound skin, it will excoriate it. It is an acrid ichor; sometimes it is so acrid, that it is necessary to butter, as it were, the edges of the sore, to wash the parts round very frequently, and clean them thoroughly. It was one of the propositions of Mr. HUNTER, whether the secretion acted on the surface of the sores, so as to keep up the irritation in them; but he thought from observation that it did not, and for many reasons, certainly, which I do not now want to relate, because I should be leading you away from the point that I wish more particularly to dwell upon. Another description of discharge is, that which has been called *sanies*, which means a viscid discharge; sometimes it is rather bloody, and then it is called a bloody sanies. Sometimes a thick discharge adheres to the edges of a wound, of a dark colour, which has been called *sordes*. Well, all these circumstances are observable in the incarnication of a sore, and afford an evidence of the unhealthy state of the parts. We have to correct these unhealthy dispositions in the healing of sores, and the first step is to stop the progress of disease.

I think that Sir EVERARD HOME's book is the most scientific which has been published on ulcers, and I have been in the habit of making some comments upon it. He has divided ulcers into such as are *weak* or *indolent*, and *irritable* sores, to which he has added such ulcers as manifest some *morbid peculiarity*. He describes the kinds of sores very well which he speaks of.

As to the *weak sores*, he says that they are pale and flabby, that the granulations have not a healthy appearance, and that they are slow in healing. He says, that if you dress such a sore with bark it will improve in its appearance, and that if there be two

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such sores, one near the knee and the other on the ancle, and you give the bark internally, the sore on the knee will heal first.

As to the *irritable* sores, I can make out nothing different in the description from the circumstances which generally attend the commencement of an ulcer. The bottom of the sore is rough, the edges are ragged and irritable, and the granulations are very few and indolent. What you have to do, is to oppose the disease which has produced the ulceration, by quieting the irritable state of the parts. I know nothing so good for this purpose as a weak solution of opium in water. You may rub down two scruples of opium in eight ounces of warm water, and strain the solution through a little tow, or you may dissolve in some cases half a drachm; some pieces of lint should be dipt in the solution and laid upon the sore. It is something which quiets the irritation, and I should tell you also that it should be applied lukewarm; all applications to sores as dressings should be of the same temperature as the sore. Cold water is not a pretty thing to apply to a sore, especially an irritable sore; I say it is not a pretty thing, for we have no right to chill parts, as I said when speaking of the regulation of temperature. When you apply a solution of opium to sores, you should touch the edges of the sores with spermaceti salve to prevent the lint sticking, and over it put a bread and water poultice made with poppy water, or you might put over it linen folded, dipt in the poppy water, and over the whole you should apply a light bandage to steady the dressings.

Keeping the patient with a sore leg in bed is a thing of great consequence. In the horizontal position the blood returns from the part with greater ease, but when the patient is erect, it has to mount up against its own gravity. Sir EVERARD HOME has shown, in the description which he has given of weak ulcers, that the granulations were red whilst the patient lay in bed, but when he stood up, the granulations became immediately purple. This seems to show the weakness of the newly formed vessels, and the advantage to be derived from an attention to posture. I say that your object should be to quiet irritation.

After you have quieted the irritation, granulations will grow, but these granulations will not be healthy; ulcers do not form in healthy people.

Indolent Ulcer.

The granulations grow after the irritation has been quieted, but they are of an indolent kind, and now constitute the common ulcer which we see so often in the Hospital. The granulations are large and flabby, the surface of the granulations is not of a good colour, the discharge is not good, and the edges of the sore become thickened. Weakness, it is said, is the essential character of the ulcer, but it is only the substitution of one name for another; when weakness is provoked it becomes irritable, and when not provoked, it degenerates into indolence. This is what nobody can deny, I think; it is what is called a truism. In the Hospital you will have frequent opportunities of observing these sores. The great art in the management of all ulcers is to quiet them when they are irritable, and to stimulate them gently when they are indolent. Then as to the substances employed for the stimulation of indolent sores, they are very numerous: there are various ointments made with the different metallic oxydes; there is the red precipitate, the white precipitate, the different preparations of zinc and lead. I knew a gentleman who once told me, when speaking of the various stimulating dressings which had been applied to sores, that he never attended to all the farrago which has been laid down in books, but that he was in the habit of curing all the sore legs that fell under his notice by using only one thing, which was a solution of the corrosive sublimate in water. He said that he proportioned the strength of the wash to the state of the sore; if the sore were very weak and indolent, he applied it strong; if not so indolent, he used the wash weaker. The fact is, that they are sores which you may dress with a great variety of stimulants; you may sometimes dress them with a thing which will agree very well for a time, and then it does not agree, and

you are obliged to apply another, and new things appear to please them.

Plaster of Paris was introduced as a dressing for sores by Mr. FORSYTH, and for some time it succeeded very well; it worked wonders of course. It was a new sort of excitant to the sore, and the sore did very well with it for a time. But mistakes were sometimes made; this plastering was sometimes made to irritable instead of indolent sores. I know this, that you may succeed in exciting a good condition of the sore, and it may become again irritable from some constitutional or other cause, and the granulations will all become absorbed, and the sore becomes indolent again. The essential character of the sore is the same; there is weakness, and if not provoked, it degenerates into indolence. I have said enough of the character of these ulcers, and I shall now proceed to the treatment.

Treatment of Ulcers.

First, of the treatment of common ulcers, ulcers in which there is no morbid propensities. I have told you as much as I know as to the principle on which all ulcers should be treated. The irritable sore must be soothed, and the indolent sore excited.

There is nothing that can be applied to a sore when in a quiet state so good as BAYNTON'S bandage. First you appease the part, then you apply a slight stimulus, such as the sore may tolerate without resentment, without exciting any inflammatory action; and this is what I call the surgery of *susceptible surfaces*. You diminish sensibility by exciting the part to a certain degree, short of that which produces reaction. Now I never can explain my meaning half so well as by referring you to a fact of which you must be peculiarly conscious, I refer to an inflamed eye, what is necessary to be attended to in the case of an inflamed eye is necessary to be observed in the manner of applying BAYNTON'S bandage, if you expect it to be attended with any success.

Well, what do you do when a man's eye is inflamed? You tell him to apply leeches, to use cold washes or the solution of opium, to take aperient medicine and so on; you do every thing, in fact, to quiet and tranquillise the part, to allay the inflammatory action, and when you have succeeded in doing this, you adopt a different plan: you tell him to use an eye-water and you give him a weak solution of the sulphate of zinc, say one grain to the ounce, and you tell him to use it frequently, to use it every six hours, to apply it by the means of the eye cup, or by putting a little of it into the eye. The first time he applies it, he puts his finger to the eye and rubs it, for he finds that it smarts uncommonly, he probably turns about, stamps on the floor, raves from the violence of the pain, and is almost disposed to damn the doctor who put him to this, as he imagines, unnecessary pain. The pain, however, soon goes away, and he is induced, from his eye still continuing weak, to use it again, he does so, and finds that it smarts much less than it did the first time; he tries it again, and finds that it smarts still less. He says to himself, hang it, did not the doctor tell me to use it every six hours? I will try it again; and so he goes on till he finds it makes no more impression on his eye than water.

The strength of the collyrium is increased, he uses it without producing any serious inconvenience, and the eye is cured. Now, I ask you, if this does not show a morbid susceptibility of the surface to which the stuff is applied, and this morbid susceptibility is removed by the application of a stimulus not sufficient to produce reaction or any sort of inflammatory process.

There is a great necessity for applying stimulants to sores, but the time for using them must be regulated by the condition of the sore. If you apply a stimulant after you have excited the irritability of a sore, granulations are formed, which continue to grow; but if you increase your stimulants the granulations will slough. But while the sore is indolent it will bear the application of a stimulant. Now, as to the manner in which BAYNTON'S sticking plaster bandage should be applied, and the good effects which it is capable of producing, they are both points worthy of attention; it is ridiculous to suppose that there was any peculiar benefit to be derived from its being applied by us

individual, for what can be done by one can also be done by another.

It is a bandage made of straps of adhesive plaster put carefully round the limb, having the sore first protected by a little lint dipped in a solution of opium, or by a bit of lint having a little spermaceti salve spread on it. The straps of plaster are put round the lower part of the limb first, and then made gradually to come upwards; over the whole you may pass a light roller. Great attention is necessary as to the manner in which it should be applied, and I wish to call the attention of the dressers of this Hospital particularly to this subject, for unless it is done well, it cannot produce those marvellous effects of which it is capable. I recollect the case of a clergyman which very well illustrates its utility. He called on me and said, that he entertained a great respect for me, and wished very much for my opinion respecting his leg. He showed me his leg, and there were two sores on it, which he said had been very intractable, and that he had for many months felt great inconvenience and pain from their continuance. I said, oh! if they are dressed properly, they will be well in a fortnight. A fortnight! surely, sir, you are in jest, I have been under the management of some of the first surgeons in London for many months, and now you say I may be well in a fortnight. He appeared very much hurt at what I had said to him. Nay, sir, said I, you need not be wrath at what I have told you, I saw that you were exceedingly anxious, that your mind was in an irritable state, and I said it to pacify and tranquillize you, and I again repeat, that if your leg be properly dressed it will be well in a fortnight. He said that if that were the case, although he had some very important business to take him out of town, he would remain for that time at least. I ordered him merely a dose or two of blue pill, and a little aperient medicine, applied BAYNTON'S bandage, advised him to keep at home and raise the leg in a horizontal position. But before the fortnight was over, aye, even before five days were well over, his leg was quite well.

I remember also the case of a young lady, who had a bad ancle, it was near Christmas time, and she wished very much to join in a dance with her other sisters, who were to go to a ball in a week. I said that a week was a short time to heal a sore in, but, however, we would try what could be done. I put on the bandage I have just been speaking of, and she went to the ball at the end of the time I have mentioned and danced without any inconvenience.

It appears to me that Mr. BAYNTON did not, at first, exactly understand the principles on which this bandage of his was to act; he imagined that the benefit was obtained from its approximating the edges of the sores; but I think it acts differently, it acts by giving a moderate and equable support to the newly formed vessels of the sores, and supplies the deficiency of the proper natural coverings. I remember a man in this Hospital who had a large ulcer on his leg; he could not even put his foot out of bed without producing most excruciating pain; he had the bandage applied, and was desired to stand up by the side of his bed, he did so without making any complaint. The vessels of the leg had received the support which their weakened state required, and, therefore, were not over distended as before.

Then again, if it should be necessary to lessen the temperature of the limb, you can do this very easily by wetting the bandage with water and allowing it to evaporate. Mr. BAYNTON was aware of this, and he recommended the patients, when the heat of the limb became high, to sprinkle water over the bandages, and to do this there is nothing better than a watering pot. The bandage retains as much of the fluid as is necessary for the process of evaporation to take place. It is a very useful and generally a successful method of treating sore legs.

But to return to the various methods which have been proposed and the various stimulants which have been recommended for the treatment of ulcers. It is impossible to describe all the appearances which present themselves in the progress of ulcers, or to detail to you the stimulants that are applicable to particular cases; the practice in these respects

is rather empirical, for we are guided principally by experience. Descriptions cannot convey to you correct ideas on these points, you must see them to understand them. You may read my lectures, if you please, but I do not think the impression on the mind is made so firmly as when you hear what I have to say. If the author of THE LANCET should publish my lectures, I only know, from what I have seen of those parts of them which have appeared in the newspapers, that they represent me as one of the most pert, balderdash fellows in existence. (A laugh.) Any person would say, on reading these paragraphs, well, I always thought Mr. ABERNETHY a well-informed man, and somewhat of a scientific man too, in the practice of his profession, but I really think he must be a very weak man. Well, as I say, you may read, but there is nothing like the *viva voce* after all, and next to this you must *see* the things which form the subjects of those lectures; unquestionably the impression made on the memory through the medium of sight is more durable than that through the medium of sound, as Horace has very judiciously observed:

"Tardiùs irritant animos demissa per aures,
Quàm quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus."

I say that I believe there is nothing like having seen as well as heard the subjects which form the principal foundation of your professional knowledge.

To return to the subject of ulcers: I said there were various methods of stimulation practised, and sometimes with very good effect, but I am satisfied that I have seen ulcers get well simply by attending to the constitutional treatment. A man in the Hospital had a large sore on his leg for a very long time, it would improve under a new stimulant for a short time and then require another. I said one day, when going round the house, I wish you would dress this man's leg with a little simple ointment merely, attend to the state of his digestive organs, and give him a little sarsaparilla. They did so, and he got speedily well.

I have said that if any man would give me a Pharmacopœia, I would undertake to say that there should not be one thing contained in it which, sooner or later, I have not seen applied as dressings to sores. All the substances which it contains may be ranked under particular classes, and their application to ulcers may at one time or another be useful.

There are substances which may be regarded as stimulants, the different preparations of the metals, of mercury, of zinc, copper, and so on. The mineral acids may be ranked under this head, and they certainly, when diluted, are very useful applications, as the nitric or muriatic acids. I once took it into my head to try the effect of bathing the limb in an acid, where there was a diseased bone. I put some nitric acid in a tub of water, and told the man to soak his leg for a quarter of an hour in it, for the purpose of dissolving the earthy matter of the bone, but I found it produced a great deal of inflammation, and I was obliged to give it up. Then again, there are substances which may be called tonics; these, when applied to sores, often produce very good effects; such as the astringent vegetable barks, and so on. Other substances, which may be called cordials, as the different balsams; the Gum Benjamin, the solution of it, called Turlington's Drops, and to some indolent sores it is a very good application. Other things act as sedatives or narcotics, and you know there is a large variety of substances that act in this way. There are opium, hemlock, and belladonna, and so on. As to the latter substance, I once had a case in this Hospital where the sore had been very irritable and obstinate for a long time, and we had tried almost every application without any benefit, when I recommended him to use an ointment, in which some belladonna had been rubbed down. He did so, and passed a very quiet night; he was quite delighted when I saw him in the morning. Well, I thought this was a very good application, but, just as I was going away from his bed, he said, do you know, Sir, that I had a very odd thing happened to me in the morning. I was dizzy, and could not see any thing for an hour. Oh! were you? said I; but, egad, I did *not* think then that it was a very good application,

and I ordered him to leave it off immediately.

Having now described those ulcers, which may be called simple, from their not having any morbid peculiarity, such as the indolent ulcers, which Sir EVERARD HOME has described, and which he says bark will cure; such as the irritable ulcer, for which he recommends conium; and the ulcer also with hard edges, and of a sluggish character, for which he recommends mercurial ointment; other ulcers, which he says a solution of common sea salt will cure, which I take for granted are the scrofulous ulcers. I shall next speak of

Ulcers, which are characterized by having some *morbid peculiarity*.

The cancerous ulcer is of this description; it is an ulceration attended with violent pain, the discharge from which is horribly fetid, and it is a very intractable disease. Different applications have been made to such ulcers with a view of correcting the nature of the discharge, and allaying the irritability of the sore. The oxides of the various metals, carbonic acid gas evolved from fermenting poultices! weak solutions of the oxymuriatic acid, chlorine, as it has been lately called, but I do not know what they call it now, they change the names of things so often.

The discharges from such sores have been made the subject of analysis by Dr. CRAWFORD, he found that this ichorous irritating fluid contained sulphurated hydrogen gas; it is owing to its containing this, in combination with other things, that the common adhesive plaster, containing lead in its composition, becomes blackened. It is sufficiently powerful, very frequently, even to blacken silver probes that you may use in dressing. I know of nothing better for the correction of such discharges than fresh-burnt charcoal. There was a druggist, a scientific sort of man, and he had a jar of water, in which some leeches had been kept, and in which many of them died, and the water became very putrid. He wished to ascertain what could be accomplished by the charcoal, in changing the appearance and quality of the water. He burnt some wood, powdered it almost directly, and put it into the water; in a very short time it became clear and was deprived of its putrescent matter. It appears to me, that it is the best application that can be used to such sores, joined to the hemlock poultice. You must quiet the irritation of the system as much as you can, give anodynes, and so on, and attend to the state of the digestive organs.

In my next lecture I shall speak of disorders successively affecting the nervous system.

REVIEW.

Researches, Physiological and Pathological, instituted principally with a view to the improvement of Medical and Surgical Practice. By JAMES BLUNDELL, M. D., Lecturer on Physiology and Midwifery, at the united Hospitals of St. Thomas and Guy. 8vo., pp. 146. London: Cox & Son. 1824.

FROM the situation which Dr. BLUNDELL has for many years held in the Medical Theatre of Guy's Hospital, and from the frequent opportunities for observation and experiment with which he must have been surrounded, we expected to find in the work before us a more systematic consideration of Physiological subjects, and a more extended application of the results of pathological research "to the improvement of Medical and Surgical practice." The author has, however, confined himself to the investigation of three principal points, the experiments to illustrate which have here been performed in a well conducted series, and the inferences which have been drawn are, with a few exceptions, plausible and ingenious.

To say that the experiments which have been undertaken are not attended with any practical use, and therefore unimportant, would be churlish, and savour more of moroseness, than the desire for improvement; granting that they may not be immediately acted on; yet no deviation from the routine of received opinions can be expected to take place suddenly; facts must be accumulated and brought to bear upon cherished prejudices; this accumulation of the best species of argument can only be gradually produced, and must be repeatedly presented to the attention before the importance or utility of any opinion will be acknowledged. We consider, therefore, that the author is entitled to great credit for the data which he has already furnished, and that he has set a very praiseworthy example; but it must be left to future trials, conducted by himself or others, to determine how far the advantages proposed are available. The subjects considered are interesting, and we shall proceed to present them to the notice of our readers. The first part of the work consists of the substance of a paper read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London, in the year 1823, but was not published in their annual volume, for what reason does not exactly appear. It is headed,

Physiological Observations and Experiments.

These have been collected with a view to the improvement of the surgery of the abdomen; a subject of so much importance that it is, of course, unnecessary to say any thing to enforce attention to what the author may have to communicate. The first experiments were made on rabbits; it has excited the wonder of some late French Physiologists why rabbits, poor unfortunate *lapins*, should be selected so generally for this purpose; but Dr. B.'s observations have led him to conclude, that the abdomen of the rabbit is, on the whole, no less tender than the human, and that success, therefore, in abdominal operations in the rabbit furnishes a presumption in favour of success in similar operations on the human abdomen. The left *kidney* was removed from four rabbits in the following manner:

"An incision was made upon the outer edge of the kidney, about an inch long, very large for the bulk of the animal: the kidney was drawn up through the wound and the superior half of the peritoneal attachment, thus put on the stretch, was, together with the vessels included in the ligature. The first died in about sixty hours, the second in four days and a half, both from inflammation of the abdomen. The third rabbit lived five or six weeks, and the fourth fattened and grew, but died at the end of the same time."

The *spleen* was removed from seven rabbits; of these three died within five days; a third in three months and a half; a fourth at the end of six months; and two perfectly recovered. In five rabbits, openings were made to the extent of half an inch through the linea alba; the *fundus vesicæ* of each was punctured with a lancet, and the aperture secured by ligature. Three of these completely recovered and two died in seventeen days after the operation. In two other rabbits, one quarter of the bladder was cut away, and secured by ligature; one died in

seven months and the other is still alive. In four others an ounce of human urine was injected, and in the other seven, eleven drachms of the decoction of oak bark were introduced into the peritoneal sack; only two recovered. From which facts, the Doctor thinks that the following inferences may be fairly drawn:

"1st. Large apertures into the peritoneum of the rabbit do not immediately induce a dangerous prostration of strength. In all my experiments, I never once observed any marked collapse in the animal at the moment when the peritoneum was laid open, though I was in full expectation of it. When urine was injected collapse was immediately and evidently produced.

2ly. Large apertures into the peritoneal sack, in the rabbit, are not necessarily, nor perhaps generally, productive of fatal inflammation. Of eighteen rabbits not only opened, but subjected to further violence, five only died from this cause.

3ly. In the rabbit, the kidney, the spleen, and a large piece of the bladder may be extirpated without necessarily causing death; though death under the first operation is probable. Of four rabbits, all died ultimately from the renal operation; two however, not till one or two months afterwards. Of seven rabbits, five died from the splenic operation; and of the same number only three died from the operations on the bladder.

4ly. When the abdomen is laid open, and parts are removed from it in the rabbit, the first danger arises apparently from collapse; the second from general inflammation; and the last from chronic topical disease.

5ly. Of twenty-nine rabbits, twenty-one died more or less directly from the operations performed, some of them, it must be confessed, violent ones; and it should be observed particularly, that five, out of seven rabbits, died from the splenic operation carefully performed; though both cases, hereafter recorded, in which the human spleen was removed, under circumstances to appearance highly unfavourable, terminated in complete and uninterrupted recovery."

From these experiments, the author is inclined to infer *presumptively*, that moderate openings into the human peritoneum will not necessarily, nor even generally, prove fatal from inflammation or otherwise; and further, that certain abdominal viscera, or parts of them may be removed without necessarily producing death; and that this *presumption* is very strong in favour of the successful removal of the spleen, ovaries, and large pieces of the bladder. What benefit can we ever expect from removing the spleen? and as to the bladder, admitting that we should be allowed to put a ligature on it when ruptured, it would prove a most difficult operation from our not being able to ascertain in what part it had given way; the ovaries then, and the fallopian tubes, afford the best chance of success. But to proceed to observations on the human body; several cases of severe injuries of the abdomen are given which have fallen under the notice of the author or his friends, and which may be considered authentic; but we have not space to devote to them, but from which he has thought that the following *presumptive* inferences may be drawn:

"1st. That smaller wounds of the peritoneum, as in tapping, hernia, &c. do not in general induce fatal peritonitis, or other destructive effects, and, therefore, that the common opinion, not perhaps found on paper, but frequently urged in conversation, and apparently operative in practice, I mean, that inflammation in a spot of the peritoneum will almost invariably diffuse itself over the greater part of it, is probably unfounded in truth.

2ly. That extensive divisions of the peritoneum are certainly not of necessity fatal, whether by inflammation or otherwise; and *probably* not generally so.

3ly. That the womb, spleen, and ovaries may be taken away in the mode mentioned, certainly without of necessity destroying life, and *presumptively* without generally destroying it.

4ly. That the womb, when developed from pregnancy, may be torn open; that the child may escape into the peritoneal sack, among the viscera; and that the mouth of the womb may be torn off, not indeed, so far as these cases may be relied on, without great danger, but twice, in seven instances, without death.

5ly. And generally, that the peritoneum and abdominal viscera, though very tender in the human body, will, without fatal consequences, bear more injury, than, from their modes of practice, the British surgeons, especially, seem disposed to admit.

6ly. That all the above inferences, from observations on the human abdomen, are in unison with those drawn from observations on the rabbit, the one set of inferences mutually supporting the other; and in this we have a fact corroborative of the principle for which I have contended elsewhere, that observation on the brute and human subject, when made with caution, may, perhaps, be found more in correspondence with each other than some surgeons are disposed, at present, to admit. A contrary opinion, so far as it is erroneous, must exert a very baleful influence upon the progress of surgery.

Whilst the body of facts which have reference to abdominal injuries remains so small, it would, no doubt, be the extreme of rashness, on such authority, to recommend to practice any operations as yet untried, or of rare performance, *unless indeed in those cases in which they secure the only remaining chance of life.* As, however, the facts related evidently create a suspicion, that a bolder abdominal surgery would not be unattended with success, I may be pardoned, perhaps, for endeavouring, on this occasion, to draw the notice of the profession to the following operations, all to appearance feasible, though by no means all of equal promise; stating distinctly, at the same time, that my design, at present, is to recommend them to *consideration* merely, and not *to practice*, except, as observed above, *in cases otherwise desperate.*"

"*A division of both the fallopian tubes, and even the removal of a small piece of them, so as to render them completely impervious, a fit addition, apparently, to the Cesarian operation, the danger of which it would scarcely increase.*—The effect of this operation would be to prevent subsequent impregnation, without, however, destroying the sexual propensities, or the menstrual action of the womb; and as many, besides Mr. Barlow's patient, have, on the Continent, recovered from the Cesarian operation, the possibility of a second need for it should, I think, by all means be precluded."

"*The extirpation of the ovarian cyst in schirrus, combined with dropsy or in simple dropsy.*—This operation will, I am persuaded, ultimately come into general use, and if the British surgeons will not patronize and perform it, the French and American surgeons will. If the dropsical cyst be large and of long standing, the removal will most probably be prevented by extensive adhesions; but if the cyst be small, containing a few pints only, the adhesions will most probably be few and easily detached. It remains to be ascertained, *by observation*, to what extent adhesions in the abdomen may be cut through, without danger to life."

"*The removal of the cancerous womb, when the ulceration first makes its appearance.*—Might not the womb be taken out above the symphysis pubis, or through the outlet of the pelvis? If above the symphysis pubis, might not the head of the vagina be tied up, and might not the ligature be conveyed by needle, into the vagina, so as to hang out at the pudenda? All the parts about the cancerous womb, and the vagina among the rest, are in such a diseased state, that I expect little from this operation, unless early performed; and then, perhaps, Oxiander's operation of paring away the diseased surface of the ulcer might be preferable, but, I think the propriety

of extirpating the womb in these cases ought certainly not to be lost sight of."

"Should the bladder give way into the peritoneal sack, and I have two preparations of this accident, why should we not lay open the abdomen, tie up the bladder, discharge the urine, and wash out the peritoneum thoroughly, by the injection of warm water? This operation would secure a chance of life, if the urine had not been extravasated long, say above half an hour."

"In cases of strongly characterized introsusception, though there never, perhaps, can be a demonstrative proof of the disease, why should we not make an opening into the peritoneum, when every other remedy has failed, and gently pass the small intestines, fold by fold, through the fingers? In the dog and rabbit (the latter animal has a tender belly and a large mass of intestines) I have repeatedly done this without occasioning death, or even producing extensive and dangerous inflammation.

In the rabbit I have often tied an abdominal artery, and then carried the ligature out of the abdomen, at the point where the artery lay, by means of a broad-pointed needle, instead of drawing the thread forth at the wound. In operating on the human body, would this expedient be advantageous, should further experience lead us to wish the ligature in all cases removed? I have, once or twice, weeks after operating, found the remains of a ligature which had been cut short, lying in the middle of a sack of puriform matter, and, to appearance, laying the foundation of chronic disease."

Such are the inferences and such the proposals which have been offered on the authority of the present investigations; whether, if the British surgeons do not patronize the operation, the French and Americans will, is rather doubtful. We have given what we consider a fair sketch of the first part of the work, and have now to do the same with the second, which is entitled

Experiments on a few controverted points respecting the Physiology of Generation.

THIS is a subject which has hitherto been involved in great obscurity; it has puzzled the ingenuity of physiologists of all ages, and it may be said still to be veiled in great obscurity. Some points, however, are more allowed than others, and to what universal suffrage has consented we shall not object. It has been, notwithstanding the assertions of Spallanzani, as yet undecided, whether the absolute contact of the male semen with the female rudiments is necessary in order to ensure conception. This part of the work, which was also read at a Meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, is intended to supply that information of which we have hitherto been deficient, and is intended to show, that the semen must have access to the rudiments, in order that the young animal may be produced; and yet that generation, although these approaches are necessary for its completion, may, to a certain extent, be accomplished without them. It must be recollected, that the female rabbit is furnished with a double uterus, and therefore exceedingly well fitted for experiments of this nature.

To ascertain this point with precision, the following experiment was made: one of the wombs was divided near its mouth in a transverse direction, so as to separate it into two portions; the organs were immediately replaced, and the wound was sewed up. In the course of a few weeks most of the rabbits recovered, and the

sensual ardour being rekindled, were submitted to the male, and, excepting only one of twelve experiments, they became impregnated in the sound womb, but not in that which had been divided. Its canal was interrupted; it interrupted the access of the semen to the rudiments, and without access generation could not be accomplished. In the next experiments the vagina was divided so as completely to interrupt its canal, in other respects the experiment was conducted as before, with the following results:

"This operation proved dangerous, much more so than the former; a number of the rabbits, however, recovered, and admitted, without repugnance, the approaches of the male. The result was decisive. Although the external genitals of these animals were turgid with blood, and the sexual excitement of some was remarkably lively; although too, in some of them, intercourse was renewed at intervals of a week or a fortnight, on the whole, as many as twenty or thirty times, not one became pregnant. Desire itself in one or two instances seemed almost insatiable; and in the rest, though suspended by coition for a time, in the course of a few hours, or a few days at farthest, it invariably recurred.

The same general appearances were observed on dissection, in them all. The vagina, if the operation had been properly performed, was completely interrupted. In both the ovaries there were *corpora lutea*. In some cases, the wombs appeared to have undergone little change; in others, they were very much enlarged, and evolved as completely as in actual pregnancy; but in no one instance was there the appearance of a single *ovum*, extra-uterine, or in the womb. In these, as in the preceding experiments, though in a different manner, the access of the semen to the rudiments had been intercepted, and under these circumstances, notwithstanding repeated commerce with the male, the formation of the young animal could not be accomplished."

So much then for the necessity of contact; and now we come to the second part of the proposition, whether generation may, to a certain extent, though imperfectly, be accomplished without it.

"In both the uterine and vaginal experiment, the womb, though it contained no fetuses, in many cases enlarged, as in extra-uterine pregnancy. Its structure, too, became thoroughly developed; it received more copious supplies of blood; in short, it frequently seemed as well prepared as its fellow, for receiving and cherishing the rudiments.*

The ovaries, too, I may further add, although there was no genuine impregnation of them, were very obviously excited. The vesicle in different parts of them germinated; its fluids increased; the delicate covering opened; the little cavity discharged its contents, and corpora lutea formed in all their perfection. As this appearance of the *corpus luteum*, notwithstanding the interception of the semen, is of considerable importance, and may help to clear away an objection to which the experiments lie open, it becomes necessary to examine it with attention."

"On the whole, then, it seems probable, judging from the appearances related, that generation may be carried forward to a certain extent, although the access of the semen to the rudiments be intercepted. Under these circumstances, the young animal cannot be formed, it is true; but corpora lutea may be generated; the wombs may be developed; and the rudiments, if we may judge from the facts already stated, may even be transferred to the uterine cavity by the play of the fallopian tubes."

"It has been asserted by some naturalists, that the corpus luteum is an evidence of genuine impregnation

* It deserves notice, that, in the uterine experiments, it was generally the fallopian portion of the womb to which the semen was not applied, and not the vaginal to which it was applied, which appeared to undergo these changes in the highest degree.

It seems *certain*, however, from the facts related, that this evidence cannot be relied on; for the luteum, in these experiments, was generated under circumstances in which, as the event proved, impregnation was impossible. Indeed there seems to be little reason for doubting, that the corpus luteum may be produced, even independently of the sexual intercourse, by the mere excitement of desire in a very high degree. Mr. Saumarez has recounted experiments, in his "New System of Physiology," in which the *luteum* appears to have been generated in this very manner. I have now in my possession a preparation, (for which I stand indebted to Dr. Cholmeley and Mr. Callaway,) consisting of the ovaries of a young girl, that died of chorea, under seventeen years of age, with the hymen, which nearly closed the entrance of the vagina, unbroken. In these ovaries, the corpora lutea are no fewer than four. Two of them, it must be acknowledged, are a little obscure; though an experienced eye, I conceive, would readily detect them. The remaining two are very distinct, and differ from the corpus luteum of genuine impregnation, merely from their more diminutive size, and the less extensive vascularity of the contiguous parts of the ovary. In every other respect, in colour and form, and the cavity which they contain, their appearance is perfectly natural, indeed so much so, that I occasionally circulate them in the class-room, as accurate specimens of the luteum upon the small scale."

The third part of the work is occupied by the consideration of a subject of considerable interest, and well worthy the attention of the professional public; it is entitled

Some remarks on the operation of Transfusion.

It is easy to conceive that many cases may occur, in which the prompt supply of the vital fluid may be successful in rescuing a fellow-creature from destruction, as in the hæmorrhages of puerperal women, or in the division of arteries from accidental causes; when the patient is gradually sinking, and the bleeding is suspended, Dr. B. thinks there is a fit opportunity for trying the operation of transfusion; and "unless we are prepared, in the face of opposing facts, to deny the utility of the operation altogether, it must, I think, be admitted, that it would be used in such emergencies with the fairest prospect of preserving the patient's life." With this we concur, and approve of the motive which has induced the author again to make it the subject of a memoir.

"We know that in hanging or submersion, death, at first, is apparent only, and not real; for a certain period after respiration stops, resuscitation is still possible. Now, that death from bleeding may also for a time be apparent, is by no means unlikely; and it is not impossible, therefore, that transfusion may be of service, if performed within a given period, even after the breathing has been stopped. Under this impression it was, that I instituted the following experiments; and although the results have not corresponded with my wishes; and although too they do not by any means form a complete body of information on the point, with the view of making an opening in the subject, I am induced to record them."

Several experiments were made of the transfusion of the blood of one dog into the vessels of another, at different periods after respiration and other marks of life had ceased; on which the following remarks and inferences have been made by the author.

"From these experiments, a variety of inferences may be drawn, which, although they do not lead us

to expect much from transfusion, when the asphyxia of hemorrhagy has been produced, are sufficient, I think, to bear us out in the assertion, that in cases of this kind, in which there is no other hope, the operation may deserve consideration: and we may infer,

1st. That the time which intervenes between the opening of an artery, and the attack of apparent death, varies exceedingly in different individuals, even when the artery remains unclosed, and the bleeding therefore is not obstructed. In some of these dogs it was about two minutes, in some four, in one fourteen minutes, and in one twenty.

2dly. That after the cessation of respiration, and the relaxation of the abdominal muscles in the dog, the animal very speedily becomes irrecoverable by the process of transfusion; for it will be observed, that when the dog was suffered to be in a state of apparent death for sixty-four, thirty-four, twenty, nay, even ten minutes, it could not be resuscitated; and this too, although the operation of transfusion was assisted by the stimulus of the hot bath, and an artificial respiration very diligently executed. Whether this principle may or not be transferred to the human body, admits a doubt; but the affirmative is probable.

3ly. That one impediment to the resuscitation of the animal in these cases, arises, perhaps, from the coagulation of the blood in the heart, for concretions were found there on inspection; it should be added, however, that this was ascertained to be the case, by inspection, in one of the dogs only, for the others were not examined; and that in other animals, as, for example, the ox, the blood has been found by an excellent experimental observer, Mr. Thackrah *, to be fluid in the heart, half an hour after the animal has been knocked down: nor must it be forgotten, that the blood of the dog has a much stronger tendency to speedy coagulation than the human blood. We must not therefore lightly make this inference general, nor transfer it without consideration to the human body.

4ly. It follows from the preceding inferences, that if we are called to a patient fifteen or twenty minutes after the carotid artery has been laid open, the patient may be still respiring; and therefore that resuscitation, by means of transfusion, may not perhaps be found in every instance impracticable. If the eighth pair of nerves were divided on one side only, the recovery might be permanent: and if it were cut through on both sides, the patient might be expected to live afterwards for a few hours.

5ly. In some of these experiments, in which the carotid was laid wide open, the blood, towards the close of the operation, came away sluggishly, and in small quantities; so that the discharge might have been arrested by the mere pressure of the finger. When persons cut their throat, I strongly suspect, that by the pressure of the finger, or, by putting a fold or two of a handkerchief into the wound, the flow of the blood might sometimes be so far obstructed, as to prolong the patient's life till farther assistance could be obtained. If this assertion be true, it cannot be made too generally known."

"As, however, opinions derived from reasonings of this kind are exceedingly uncertain, until they are brought to the test of experience, I have been induced to institute an experiment, not unattended with labour, with a view of demonstrating that dogs certainly may be supported for a length of time by the transfusion of blood only, without the aid of food taken into the alimentary tube; and the following is a brief statement of the results:

For three whole weeks I nourished a dog by the mere transfusion of blood into the external jugular vein. The aggregate quantity infused during this period, was eighty-four ounces, avoirdupoise, nearly; that is, on an average, four ounces a day;

* See Thackrah's Inquiry into the Blood, &c. p. 58, published in 1819; a very interesting little work, and which should be generally read. We regret that we omitted to mention it in our notice of Mr. T.'s last publication. EDIT. L.

and during the whole time the animal was allowed to swallow nothing except water, and, indeed, never manifested any marked desire for solid aliment. The blood, during the first eleven days, was injected by the syringe, but during the remainder of the term it was transmitted direct from the artery of the emittent dog, by means of a tube. The kind of blood used was the arterial."

Another series of interesting experiments was performed, to ascertain how far the blood of one animal could be substituted for that of another, and the kinds of blood proper for the operation of transfusion, when performed on the human body, from which the author has ventured to draw the following conclusions:

"1st. That, in transfusion, venous blood may be successfully used, although, perhaps, arterial blood is preferable.

2ly. That, an animal may be saved from the death of hemorrhagy, by the transfusion of a much smaller quantity of blood than that which it has lost.

3ly. That the blood of one genus of animals cannot be indifferently substituted, in large quantities, with impunity, for that of another genus; and, therefore, that if an operation be performed upon the human body, human blood only should be employed, until some other blood be found which is equally congenial to the vessels."

Blood may be received into a cup, and passed through a syringe, without being thereby rendered unfit for the purposes of life.

To show this, Dr. BLUNDELL instituted everal experiments, one of which we subjoin:—

"I procured a dog, weighing 15lb. 2oz. avoirdupoise, and inserting pipes into the carotid artery and jugular vein, instead of the femoral vessels, I suffered the blood to flow, taking care to return it into the jugular by means of the *impeller*, as fast as it issued from the artery. A slight disposition to coagulation manifested itself; and some clots formed in the emittent tube, not however in sufficient quantity to close it. The syringe was air-tight, but one bubble, accidentally absorbed from the cup, was injected into the vein.

For twenty-five minutes the operation was continued unceasingly, during all which time the animal did not appear to be in any way remarkably disturbed, and immediately afterwards the pulse (naturally 140) beat 160 times in the minute, and the respirations were twenty-six. No intermissions of the pulse were observed, and, throughout the operation, the instrument played well, the blood flowed in a moderate and equable stream.

From a subsequent observation I ascertained that when the syringe was worked with the same degree of rapidity as it had been during the experiment, a full half-pint, that is eight ounces avoirdupoise, were transmitted in the course of a minute; and it follows, therefore, that in the course of twenty-five minutes, during which the operation was continued, twelve pounds and a half of blood at least, probably more, must have passed through the instrument, though the whole weight of the dog scarcely exceeded fifteen pounds. The subject of this experiment was a large puppy of delicate habit, with hanging ears, and with a taste of the spaniel blood. The whole length of tubes and surfaces over which the blood passed in its way from the artery to the vein, was, as I ascertained by measurement, at least one foot and a half.

"Three hours after the operation the dog seemed disposed to lie about and was languid, but could walk very well, and there were 160 beats of the pulse, and thirty respirations in the minute. Next day the animal ailed but little; the day afterwards it was much better, and took plenty of food; and the day following, that is the fourth, reckoning that of the experiment as the first, the general health appeared to be completely restored."

Subjoined to the present work is an engraving giving a perpendicular section of an instrument for the transfusion of blood, which Dr. BLUNDELL

has called an 'impellor;' his description of it, with an enumeration of various other instruments required for the operation, is as follows:

"The instruments required for this operation should, I think, be shut up in the same case with the impellor hereafter described. Those which I would recommend, are the following:—a tourniquet, a scalpel, a lancet, an eyed probe, a blunted needle and ligatures, a pair of spring forceps, venous tubules, a smaller and a larger, and two flexible tubes, each about six inches long, one connected with a smaller and one with a larger arterial tubule to meet the varying calibre of the vessels, and both capable of uniting, in the way of ping, with either of the venous tubules.

Of the Transfusion of Venous blood by means of the Impellor.

When, in consequence of the want of arterial blood, it becomes necessary to transfuse the venous, a different method of operating must be adopted; and, in the present state of our knowledge, I would recommend, in such cases, the employment of the impellor.

In operating with this instrument, a chair is to be procured, and by means of a gimlet an aperture is to be worked into the outside of the back of it, at a convenient elevation, and into this aperture the vice of the apparatus is to be very firmly screwed. By means of the solid stem which projects from its apex, the cup is to be fixed erect in the gripe of the vice, and the large outer cup, containing the impelling part of the instrument, is to be filled with tepid (90°) water, if this can be procured, so that the whole of this part of the apparatus, inclusive of the syringe, may be covered in completely by the water, in such manner that the entrance of *air* into the instrument by leakage, whether of the joints or of the syringe, may be effectually precluded. The apparatus being thus far prepared, the inner cup is to be put on, care being taken to fit the tube which projects below from the apex of this inner cup, to the corresponding tube which springs up from the cylinder with which the syringe is connected, and which lies in the bottom of the larger cup; because, if the exact apposition of one tube to the other be neglected, a difficulty may needlessly arise in putting the inner cup into its place, in consequence of the two tubes interfering in an obstructive manner with each other. Half a pint, or a pint, of water is then to be poured into the inner cup and pumped briskly through the instrument, so that the air may be expelled thoroughly, the water taking its place; and the extremity of the flexible tube which springs from the instrument is, towards the end of the operation, to be bent down into water contained in a tumbler, the pumping being continued, and this with a view of ascertaining, by the appearance of bubbles, whether there be any fissure at which air enters. The exact temperature of the instrument is not of importance, but the water should, in preference, be milk warm. The apparatus being thus prepared, the operator with his lancet may lay bare, as before, a vein on the fore-arm of the patient, to the extent of an inch at least, taking care to cut down completely through the cellular web, and then, by means of the same instrument, he may, as in the former operation, make a longitudinal incision at least a line in length, and large enough to allow of the ready entrance of the venous tubule to be introduced to the extent of two or three lines thoroughly, but with the utmost gentleness, with its extremity towards the heart. A ligature should not be used. The tubule should be retained in its place by the finger of the assistant who holds the arm. The orifice of the tubule should not have a cutting edge.

After the tubule has been introduced, the chair should be brought close to the edge of the bed; an ounce or two of water should be poured into the cup if void, the syringe should be thrown into action, so as to fill with water the flexible tube which may have drained itself empty, and then the venous tubule, previously inserted into the vein, should, by means of pressure combined with a slight semi-rotatory movement, be plugged pretty firmly into the flexible tube, in order to prevent the juncture from bursting open when the blood is impelled. After the apparatus has been

fitted together in this manner, the person who is to supply the blood takes his seat on the chair; his arm is opened by the lancet as in ordinary venesection; any superfluous water lying in the cup is removed by a piece of sponge; and the blood, instead of being received into a basin in the usual manner, is directed into the cup of the transfusing instrument, and by the play of the syringe, impelled direct into the vein of the patient, without being suffered at any time to accumulate largely in the apex of the cup. As the object of the syringe is merely to give impulse, it ought not to be worked by long strokes, but by short and sharp movements, care being taken that the plug be every time pushed home, so as to bear down upon the nozzle plate and prevent any accumulation in the barrel of the instrument. If the syringe be worked in this manner, the blood will be little more exposed, when transmitted through the impellor, than it is when passing direct from artery to vein by means of a tube; since, in order that the impulse may be given, it is enough that the blood be admitted but a little way into the barrel of the syringe:—those who are acquainted with the principles of hydrostatics, must be aware that the entrance of a few minims would be amply sufficient for this purpose."

"It is of great importance, in using this instrument, that the outer cup be filled thoroughly, so as to cover in the head or upper end of the barrel of the syringe, to the depth of an inch, or an inch and a half at least; as it is this complete submersion of the impelling portion of the apparatus, with all its joints and vents, which is the only security against the entrance of air."

Of Transfusion by the Syringe.

"Should it be found hereafter, by numerous pointed, and therefore decisive, experiments and observations, that human blood may lie out of the vessels in the cup for several seconds, without becoming thereby unfit for the vital purposes, there is yet another mode in which transfusion may be accomplished, by the syringe alone, I mean, and this method of operating, if feasible, may be adopted in preference to the preceding, on account of its greater simplicity. In this method of operating a good syringe is required, capable of containing two or three ounces of blood, and furnished with a pipe for the vein, (like that used in the former instrument,) about two inches long, and made to fit by plugging, and a semi-rotatory movement, into the nozzle of the syringe.

Some miscellaneous remarks are then given, on transfusion, well worthy of perusal, and the work is concluded with some account of six cases, in which injection into the human veins was attempted.* The author has with great candour given three cases, although the results were unsuccessful, the last is the case of hydrophobia which was brought into Guy's Hospital in September last, a full report of which was given in No. 12, Vol. IV. of The Lancet. The following remarks are made by the author on this case, after mentioning the circumstances of the preparation for the injection of the warm water, and the then hopeless condition of the patient, he says:

——"A few drachms of spirit and water were infused under the hope of

* The French Physicians are investigating this subject with considerable zeal, and so anxious are they to ascertain how far it may prove practically useful, that the Royal Society of Medicine has offered a prize of the value of 300 francs to the author who shall furnish the best answers to the following questions:

Peut-on se permettre d'injecter des substances medicamenteuses dans le systeme veineux de l'homme? Quels sont les medicamens qu'on peut introduire dans l'economie animale par cette voie? Et quelles peuvent être les maladies qui exigent ce mode de medication?

raising the circulation, but without producing any decisive effect; and death ensued with the usual distressing symptoms, about fifty or sixty minutes after the bleeding. The essential part of Magendie's operation, the injection of water I mean, was not performed here. Death was, I think, accelerated by the largeness of the bleeding; but this may be disputed. Respecting the operation of Magendie, I think it better to give no opinion, favourable or repugnant, till further information.

Although we were not inclined to make any remarks on this case at the time it occurred, but contented ourselves with giving an impartial and correct account of the treatment; yet our conviction was, as well as the Doctor's, that the death of the patient was "accelerated by the largeness of the bleeding." We believe, however, that this circumstance was the result of some misconception of the directions given; for we are satisfied that the gentleman who performed the operation was as anxious as any one present to afford the unfortunate man every solace and assistance. Dr. Blundell has very prudently reserved his opinion, as to the probable result of Magendie's operation, till future opportunities present themselves. We have now only to add the concluding observations of our author on this subject.

"Whether it be possible to save a patient, when sinking from hemorrhage, by injecting blood before respiration is stopped, these cases do not enable us to judge; but we may, I think, infer from them,

1st. That transfusion, especially that variety of it in which the syringe alone is employed, may be performed with facility.

2ly. And in the present state of our knowledge, that the operation is not attended with any obviously dangerous symptom, provided the blood be promptly transmitted, and the injection of air be precluded.

3ly. And till we have proof to the contrary, that when a patient has ceased to respire for a few minutes, much is not to be expected from the injection of blood into the *veins*. What effects might be produced by the injection of venous blood into the common carotid of the right side, towards the coronary arteries, remains to be ascertained.

But, to conclude. The preceding paper contains all the facts, favourable and unfavourable, which are come to my knowledge, and which seem calculated to help the mind in judging, respecting the operation of transfusion. On perusing them, every one who is in the habit of reflecting, will, of course, form an opinion for himself: having, however, thought a little upon the subject, I may be permitted to state my own persuasion to be, that transfusion by the syringe is a very feasible and useful operation; and that, after undergoing the usual ordeal of neglect, opposition, and ridicule, it will, hereafter, be admitted into general practice. Whether mankind are to receive the first benefit of it, in this or any future age, from British surgery, or that of foreign countries, time, the discoverer of truth and falsehood, must determine."

We have now furnished to our readers a very extended analysis of the author's views and opinions, and we recommend to the profession an attentive consideration of the statements which have been made; they appear to have been made honestly, and without any wish to conceal the unfortunate, any more than the fortunate, results; and have, therefore, furnished the materials from which every individual may correctly form his opinions.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN MEDICAL JOURNALS.

Beobachtung einer Entzündung des linken Ohres, durch mehrere maden veranlasst; deren vollständige Verwandlung nach ihrem Abgange gelang, Von Dr. Kuntzmann.

A case of Inflammation of the left Ear, occasioned by the presence of several larvæ in the external meatus.

A Surgeon of Berlin, Mr. MOHR, was consulted, some time since, by a little boy of six years of age, who had been suffering for five days a very severe pain in the left ear, without intermission, and which pain was daily increasing in intensity. On examination of the parts he found that the proper auricle was sound, but that the external auditory passage was very much swollen, and from it pus mixed with blood was discharged. In other respects the child appeared to be well. Mr. Mohr ordered an infusion of chamomile, with honey of roses and tincture of myrrh, to be injected into the ear, and an emollient poultice to be afterwards applied. The next day, when injecting the ear, Mr. Mohr was very much surprised to see several moving bodies, and with a small forceps he drew out six worms of the same size and figure. Soon afterwards the pains ceased, and in a few days the patient was quite well, without having any deafness or other inconvenience.

Each worm, or *larva*, was rather more than half an inch long, and one twelfth of an inch in breadth; of a yellowish white colour, and composed of many soft circular portions, locking the one into the other. On the head of each were two brown crooked projections, bent downwards, between which was found a little conical figure called, by Reaumur, *dard*. This dard was not straight, as it is in the domestic fly, but curved backwards the same as the little horns, although less so.

Mr. Mohr gave two of these larvæ to Dr. Kuntzmann, and he placed them in a little box containing some finely powdered dry earth, a small piece of meat, and a little dung: they would not touch either of the two last substances, but plunged themselves immediately into the earth. Two days after he found them both changed into perfect chrysalides. These were brown in colour, cylindrical in figure, thin, and obtuse at each end; immovable, and apparently composed of many rings. In about five days they became perfect insects, with wings spotted with grey and black; and Professor Illiger, when they were shown to him, said that they belonged to the genus *Tachina*, but that they formed a new species of that genus.

This boy had been frequently in the habit of sleeping in the open air in a wood near his home, and there can be no doubt but that the eggs from which these larvæ are produced were deposited in his ear, by an insect, while he was asleep.—*Journal der Practischen Heilkunde, August.*

A case of periodical inflammation of the right cheek cured by the employment of the Sulphate of Quinine.

ON April 1, 1822, Madame V. recovering from a catarrhal affection, left Paris for Chartres; she travelled through the night, and on her arrival the next morning, she was taken to her house in a sedan chair; on the journey she said she felt the wind blow smartly in her face. It was soon followed by a general uneasiness, accompanied by fever, but which disappeared promptly by the use of pectoral drinks, &c.

Four days after this she felt, without any assignable reason, very decided shiverings as if extending over the back and arms; soon after followed by a high fever, and attended with a very severe pain and tension in the right cheek. This state, after having continued a few hours, entirely disappeared, but returned again on the following days without observing any regularity in the term of its attack. In a short time, however, the accessions of the complaint became more and more severe, and made their appearance every day at the same hour. I was called, says M. DURAND, to the patient on the 11th of April, the seventh day from the appearance of the disease.

I found the right cheek red and swollen, the patient complained of its being very painful, the pain extending to the temple and ear of the same side. The skin was also very hot in the painful part; the pulse was frequent and hard; the tongue slightly covered with a white fur, but there was little thirst. Some mild sudorific drinks were prescribed, and in the evening all the appearances which I had observed in the morning had disappeared, and nothing but a slight swelling remained in the cheek. The following morning at eight, the hour appointed by the patient, I visited her to observe the accession of the disease ushered in by yawnings and shiverings, afterwards followed by fever, and a return of pain in the cheek, such as I had seen on the preceding day. The pain and swelling increased till towards the middle of the day, and having arrived at its height, it again gradually subsided, and at four in the afternoon had entirely ceased.

In the interval between the close of this attack and the appearance of the next, I induced the patient to take *six grains* of the *sulphate of quinine*. The complaint on the next day was less violent; it passed away, and in the interval between that and the next, she took *eight grains* of the same salt.

The most complete success attended the employment of this medicine.

The inflammation (undoubtedly there had been inflammation) disappeared entirely and returned no more.

A very little swelling and pain only remained in the right ear, which was readily removed by the application of a few leeches to the temple. From this case we may conclude—1st, That some *intermittent inflammations do exist*; 2dly, that these affections may be cured by the employment of the *Quinine*.

PHYSIOLOGY.

Experiments of Magendie, continued from Vol. V. p. 476.

M. In pursuing these researches, I made some observations on the properties of the optical apparatus; and I do not wish to pass them over in silence. I was first very much struck by the complete *insensibility* of the *retina*. I had before raised some doubts of its exquisite sensibility, but from the manner in which the experiment was made, I was not exactly satisfied of it. I pricked the eye of a rabbit from its anterior surface, which, as every one knows, is extremely sensitive, and turning the instrument about in it, so as to touch successively different parts of the globe of the eye, and the animal gave some signs of pain, which I attributed to the feeble sensibility of the retina. But in making this experiment in a manner so as to penetrate the eye on its posterior surface, the former cause of error was avoided, and you might be easily assured that the pricking, and even the tearing, of the retina, did not cause any appearance of pain. Thus we arrive at the conclusion to say, almost paradoxically, *the retina is not sensible*, and in strict language it is not endowed with *general* sensibility in the rabbit, but only a *relative* and special sensibility for light. It is true, as I have already said, that the eye does not receive in these animals any nerve from the fifth pair, as I attempted to show it did in dogs and cats.

On pricking the retina in these animals, there appeared to be a slight degree of sensibility shown; but as they, generally speaking, possess more sensibility than rabbits, so they are also more difficult to examine, to judge of the sensibility of such a part as the eye, which is surrounded by delicate structures. I do not assert any thing on this point more than this, if the sensibility of the retina exists in these animals it is only very little so, and scarcely apparent. It may be much about the same in man, and I have proposed to undertake the investigation.

Birds appear to have a very marked sensibility of the retina, at least in such of them as I have recently made the subjects of experiment; they appear to have pain, or some inquietude, each time that I touch the retina with the point of the instrument, and there was also at the same time a distinct contraction of the pupil, a thing which I had never perceived in the mammiferi. The reptiles and fishes which I

have examined appear to be in the same case as the last class of animals, that is to say, that they have not a sensitive retina.

It did not suffice to have discovered this of the retina, but it was necessary to follow up the investigations on the rest of the *appareil optique*. In this respect all the mammiferi appeared to me to be alike; the *optic nerve*, before and after its decussation, throughout its whole course is completely *insensible*. It is just the same with the tractatus optici, and the superficial parts of the corpora quadrigemina. In making these experiments, it is necessary to avoid one cause of error, which is that of touching, or even agitating very slightly, mediately or immediately, the fifth pair; for then there is a most exquisite sensibility, manifested by the cries and violent actions of the animal.

It is different, however, in birds; the optic nerve appears to have some sensibility, both before and after its decussation, at least when it is touched or pinched; for there are then certain motions of the iris which show that it is sensible. As to the optic thalamus, it has a most exquisite sensibility, and, after the fifth pair, it is certainly the most sensible part of the brain of birds.

I have tried experiments on the other nerves distributed to the orbid, and I have found that the *fourth* and *sixth* pairs of nerves, when pinched, cut, or lacerated, do not present any trace of *sensibility*. These attempts simply gave rise to some convulsive motions of the muscles moving the globe.

The portio mollis of the seventh pair, or the *auditory nerve*, now remained to be examined, and this nerve is usually considered to be very sensible. This, in the opinion of physiologists, is on the same scale of sensibility as the retina, and the severe pains produced in the ear when inflamed, the nature of the functions of the ear, destined to receive and compare the least vibrations of air, the acute sensibility of the tympanum, &c. all appear legitimately to support the opinion which has been formed of the sensibility of this nerve. Besides, the acoustic nerve touches at its origin the fifth pair, and in many animals, they say that it is only a branch of it. All these reasons are, without doubt, very plausible; but adhering to our mode of study, which has often upset the greatest probabilities, we attempted to touch the acoustic nerve in the cranium, but failed. We afterwards removed a portion of the cranium, and lifted up about a third part of the cerebellum, and even the lobule lodged in the cavity of the temporal bone. We could then see the fifth pair coming out from the pores to pass over the petrous portion, and the acoustic nerve entering the internal auditory foramen. We touched successively the two nerves, and each time that the fifth pair was touched, even in the most gentle way, signs of the most acute sensibility were shown, whilst the animal remained immovable when the trunk of the auditory nerve was touched, pressed, and even torn. I have, as yet, only performed this experiment on a young dog and on rabbits: if future attempts confirm the truth of it, we see again another structure deprived of the properties usually assigned to it by physiologists. If it be so, then the extreme *sensibility* of the *ear*, as well as that of the *eye*, must be attributed to the *branches of the fifth pair*, which are distributed to that part.

In adding these facts to those which we have already published, we have arrived at a conclusion quite opposed to that which has been usually admitted respecting the nerves of the principal senses. We see, that instead of their being sensitive to the highest degree, they have scarcely the power of producing any sensation when even torn. But how is it that contacts with hard and large bodies, and even tearing of such nerves, do not produce any apparent effect on the organs which are so apt to be influenced by odours, light, and simple sonorous vibrations? I shall not attempt to explain it, but shall at once say that I do not know. I have only found in these facts new motives to prosecute my researches by the experimental method which has discovered these facts, and which have taught us clearly enough that we have as yet much to learn as respects the phenomena of life.

MR. ABERNETHY, THE LANCET, AND THE LONDON MEDICAL HUMBUG.

SEVERAL correspondents have inquired of us the cause of our silence on the subject of the late Chancery proceedings—this we will explain in a very few words. Prior to the discussion before the Chancellor, we abstained from comment, for the obvious purpose of withholding from our opponents a knowledge of our case. The decision of the Court did not entirely supersede our motive, for although the injunction was refused, yet we thought it possible that Mr. ABERNETHY'S *particular friends*, the 'Hole and Corner Surgeons,' would have induced him to move the Court on another ground; of this, however, we have not yet received any intimation; and we think it very probable that Mr. ABERNETHY prefers our method of *bleeding* to that practised in the honourable Court of *Chancery*. Be this as it may, should we not obtain from that gentleman, in the course of the following week, another card of invitation to Lincoln's Inn Hall, we will, in our next number, go fully into the question as to the right and expediency of giving publicity to the lectures of all public medical teachers; in doing this, we shall effectually expose the motives and hypocrisy of the opposition on the part of the interested lecturers, and for ever silence (on this subject at least) the nonsensical hubbub of the 'Hole and Corner' advocates. As a fair specimen of the talents of our enemies, we insert an extract taken from a *thing* yclept The London Medical Repository (more correctly HUMBUG, now in a state of syncope from the too frequent use of THE LANCET).

The article from which the following paragraph is taken, is headed *Property in Lectures*, and the profound logician thus reasons:—"As to the *honesty* of the transaction (publishing lectures), it cannot require consideration. A man may just as well go to dine at a *restaurateur's*, and, after satiating his own appetite with that portion of the *bonne chère* for which he paid on his own account, carry off the remainder of the landlord's provisions, to be sold for a penny a pound to all who might choose to buy; or, perhaps, we may liken the transaction to that of insuring one's house, and then setting it on fire, to obtain the large amount for which a very trifling premium was paid." Thrice double dunce, why not have said at once, that the publication of lectures is "*very like a whale?*" Should a "Medical Dunciad" shortly appear, the two first names in its pages will be those of *Copland* and *Simon Pure*. The above passage will for ever stamp the editor of the 'London Medical Humbug' as a creature more filthy than 'the issue of a mangy dog.'

THE LANCET has, we believe, almost terminated the editorial duties of this exquisite analogical reasoner. Editorial hunger is threatened, and his cry will shortly be "*Hopdance* cries in Jem's belly for two white herring." We must not omit to inform the lecturers of a method which this editor, *scholar*, and *gentleman*, has

proposed, with a view of preventing any farther annoyance from the publication of lectures. Quoth this 'sapient Toby,' "there may be a difficulty in excluding individuals from access to a crowded class; but in Edinburgh, where some of the rooms are equally frequented, it is the custom to have the name, place of abode, &c., of the entering pupil written in (by) his own hand, in a book provided by the pro-professor (besides the matriculation in the University Album), on making out his ticket.

"Let the London teachers have a mutual understanding to the following effect:—let each provide a book of this sort, and at the head of each class insert a form of obligation, purporting that the undersigned bind themselves to refrain from making any use of the lectures delivered by the teacher beyond that of personal improvement." How remarkably clever this is, who would not be an editor; is it not wonderful that 'malignity, milk, and oatmeal' can display so much genius; there is something curious, however, in the above project, inasmuch as the *projector's* students are incapable of complying with it; at least, so we understand. It is not probably generally known that the Editor of the *Humbug* is a lecturer; such, however, is the fact, and there is an astonishing unanimity of opinion and equality of ideas between the teacher and his pupils: we just now stated that these gentlemen could not conform to the regulation of writing their names in a book, for in good truth the learned lecturer's students consist of *seven empty benches, an old great coat*, and a few *personal* friends imported from Scotland, *not immediately cognisable to our naked orbs.*

SKETCHES OF THE SURGICAL PROFESSION IN IRELAND.

No. V.

MR. CRAMPTON.

"A physician in a great city seems to be the mere plaything of fortune: his degree of reputation is for the most part totally casual; they that employ him know not his excellence; they that reject him know not his deficiency."

Johnson's Life of Akenside.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—There is little doubt but the resumption of our place in *The Lancet* will be a subject of as deep concern to a portion of the professional body in Ireland as the suspension of our labours was one of congratulation. Week after week the trembling monopolists hurried over the pages of *The Lancet*, expecting their well-earned reward, but the SON OF ERIN was not there, and it was triumphantly asserted, that the wight who used to trifle so unceremoniously with professors' faces was no more. To this premature prognosis of our literary dissolution we must only reply, in the words of the philosophic poet, "Nescia mens hominum fati, sortisque futuræ!" All is not lost that is in danger; for, lo! "Richard is himself again." Renovated by the breezes of our dear native mountains, we shall endeavour to bring up, by "forced marches," whatever was left undone during a summer of indolent repose. Even amidst those wilds, as we snuffed the fragrance of the "heath and harebell dipped in dew," would our old acquaintances of the College intrude upon our solitude, and we almost longed for the day when the stage coach was to whirl us back to our city residence, mysterious as Blue Beard's chamber, where we are now safely deposited, enveloped too in our former garb of anonymous obscurity, and reviewing, in the solemn vista of

meditation, the subjects upon which our pencil shall be successively employed.

Could we give to our readers a plan of our intentions, and make them see at a glance the objects present to our mind, what a motley assemblage of men and things would they behold! Professors to be *painted*, practitioners to be *feed*, hospitals to be *described*, saints to be *salted*, books to be *reviewed*, and authors to be *chastised*. "Quicquid agnnt homines nostri est farrago libelli," shall be our motto. In short, the more minutely we inspect our subjects the more numerous do they appear, and like the fleeting line bounding the horizon, that mocks every attempt at approach, they seem to shift their position according as we advance. We must, however, only do the best we can. The outlines of some already begin to swell into the similitude of the originals; the colours, tempered and arranged upon the pallet, invite our willing hands, and though we should nightly "outwatch the bear," our lonely lamp shall not cease to burn until it lights us to the consummation of our designs. Should a strong and natural propensity to what is right ever give to our efforts a warmth of expression beyond what propriety would admit, we trust the candid, who in common with us feel that the accomplishment of their wishes must depend upon severe measures, will readily pardon the offence of setting off virtue at the expense of vice, and of indulging in the consolatory, some will say visionary, prospect of professional regeneration. Yet we know that society when corrupted, like stagnant water, contains within it the properties for restoring it to a healthy state; and is it, therefore, too much to assert of a system, which having arrived at the very acmè of corruption, that it will one day or other be corroded by its own rottenness, and ultimately arise regenerated and purified from the dross in which it is sunk? No, surely not. The machine of Reform has received an impulse sufficiently powerful to perpetuate its motion until it turns up some substantial result. This no human power, however perverse its opposition, will be able to prevent.

A powerful effort has already been made (to which we may hereafter advert) to do away with that pernicious statute of the College—compulsory apprenticeship. It is, indeed, somewhat surprising, that when profit and popularity would be the consequences of concession, men so much alive to self-interest would not yield and enjoy both. Let them admit us but a few hours, each day, into the library and the museum, and it will go a great way to content us. Is this too much to request? Was ever Irishman so easily contented? Oh! but there is our old friend the NASILOQUIST and his petty satellites, who would not for all the world suffer the Portland mosaics of the hall to be sullied by the unlearned footsteps of a pupil. Well done CHARLEY HOC, if the Richmond formulary does not suffice to furnish a prescription to send thee and thy pests to rest, verily we know nothing of chemical decomposition. But we perceive we have been anticipating, and must not draw farther on the patience of our readers by deferring our narrative.

It was on one of those fine, clear, cool days that often close, in cheerful gleams of sunshine, the autumnal season that we happened to be sauntering on the high road in the vicinity of the Dublin mountains, and enjoying the beautiful prospects which extended beneath us—the bay occasionally enlivened by the snow-white sheets of numerous pleasure boats, and as often saddened by the dusky sails of some collier, "fetching coals to Newcastle"—Howth, like the huge Leviathan of the deep, rearing its rocky summits above the "sleepless waves", and the city stretched out in ample circumference below us, seeming at this distance as if lulled in the sabbath of repose. Absorbed in the train of reflection which objects of such melancholy interest naturally inspired, we had nearly reached the limits of our walk, when suddenly the mingled sounds of hound and horn, in one loud and joyous concert, swelled on the breeze, and awoke us from our midday dream. A tallyho! in a major key of vociferation that would have done credit to Stentor himself, completed our excitation, and informed us that the immolation of poor rey-

nard was momentarily expected. Ascending an adjoining eminence, the better to enjoy the rural sport, we beheld the full tide of the chace roll before us over hedge, row and brake. At some distance before the other votaries of Diana, there was one, who, from the cut of his courser and inimitable attitude in the saddle, appeared to us both calculated and inclined to be in at the death. The personage who had thus attracted our attention, was about six feet in height, slightly formed, elegantly proportioned, and elastic as corkwood; and if, instead of the gothic fabrics by which his graceful figure was distorted, he had been habited in flowing robes of "Lincoln green," he might doubtless have passed for the model of James Fitzjames. A blue coat, with scarcely anything deserving the name of skirts; a pair of doe-skin breeches, that did every justice to the ingenious maker; top boots; spurs of unsparing longitude; and a whip, called "a blazer" in this country, completed the costume of this dandy Nimrod, which gave him no faint resemblance to a game cock, trimmed and heeled for the combat. His horse too, though as good a bit of flesh as ever felt steel, partook a good deal of the same grotesque aspect as his master; for his ears, reduced to one-third of their natural length, were sharp and short as the blades of a toilet scissars; his mane had suffered a similar mutilation, and his tail resembled nothing we had ever seen in the animal creation, except the caudal extremity of a rat that had been amputated in a trap. By the time we had taken the dimensions of this exquisite Centaur, the chace had come to a close, and all that remained of poor reynard was that for which he had been so brutally tortured—his *brush*, which now hung triumphantly dangling over Croppy's brows, placed there by the hands of the Surgeon-General, Mr. CRAMPTON.

Having thus introduced our subject in the dignified character of an equestrian, we shall go back, *per saltum*, to consider him in the more humble capacity of a walking gentleman, at a time when he as little thought of being the hero of a memoir, as of driving four-in-hand through Merrion-square; not, indeed, without some apprehension, that our readers, after following us through the subsequent narrative, will fare pretty much like the hunting party just described, who having toiled the whole day in pursuit of the fox, had nothing for their labour in the evening but a *tail*.

Of the worthlessness of a splendid lineage Mr. Crampton is a very distinguished illustration, as he proves, in his own person, that a man, without one drop of noble blood in his veins, may rise to the highest eminence in any profession. If the "stemmata quid faciunt" of Juvenal be a good text, Mr. Crampton is an excellent comment; for of his immediate kindred, he is the most important himself; and of his ancestors, by far the most illustrious that we could hear of were Adam and Eve. From this venerable couple, he is descended in a direct line, and who can boast of a more ancient parentage? In later times, however, his family, suffering for the sins of their fathers, procured by their industry the necessaries, without being able to afford the luxuries, of life. 'Tis true his father was a professional man, a dentist, and the first bread which young Philip ever masticated was honourably earned by extracting teeth.

Having arrived at that age when the mind and body are fast hastening to maturity, he gave evident signs of a genius far above the level of drawing teeth or of polishing ivory. Such monotonous occupations were ill suited to the towering mind of the ambitious boy, whose kite, during the gales of October, was seen to soar beyond those of his companions, and whose *taw* was the terror of his playfellows *shops*. At the distance of forty years (for Mr. Crampton is now turned of fifty), the reminiscences to be collected of boyhood are often imperfect; but, if report speak the truth, in conjugating of verbs and declining of nouns, he had no equal, and even that master-piece of pother and puzzle, the Greek grammar, became an easy prey to the force of his dawning intellect. These were prognostics of future greatness not to be overlooked by parental solicitude, and many an evening when the infused Congou poured its balmy fragrance around, and the melodious simpering of the kettle harmonized the family

fireside—when the tooth-key took its rest upon beds of softest lint, and dentifrices breathed from under their painted lids, did the happy parents of young Philip hold consultation upon the destinies of their son. But it would be to no purpose to rescue from oblivion the harmless gossip of parents about the talents and prospects of their striplings, for if there had been any truth in such prophecies, we ourselves would have been, ere this, only something short of a secretary of state, and instead of wielding a "grey goose quill," we would be directing the energies of our country. To the good man himself, indeed, the choice of a profession for his son was a matter of little moment, being convinced, that into whatever sphere of society circumstances would whirl him, he would be unto that system as a centre and a sun. Mamma, however, having a turn for female theology, was anxious that her son should be brought up in the Church, for she often declared, that some time previous to his birth, she had dreams of ecclesiastical preferment, and that, on casting the *sortes* on the following morning in the breakfast cups, she saw a mitre fully developed in one of their bottoms. But time, the great disposer of all things and the genuine test of prophetic inspiration, soon settled the question; and neither the predictions or innocent sorcery of the devout lady had the slightest influence on the fate of her son, for he was shortly afterwards yoked in the wain of surgery, under the guidance, we are told, of Solomon Richards, whose tuition was just worth what it cost—*nothing*. The sober details of solitary dissection, and of midnight readings, as they present nothing either amusing or instructive, we shall pass over, and commence our narrative at another era in our hero's life.

After Mr. Crampton had obtained a licence to kill game at the Surgical Stamp Office, the army, that great refuge of professional indigence, afforded him a temporary asylum from the cheerless drudgery of rising to notice in a great city. The trifling stipend of an hospital mate, however, to a man of lofty pretensions and expensive habits, only prolongs existence to render it superlatively miserable, and, like a lamp ill supplied with oil, though the flame is still kept alive, it burns with a painful reluctance, only showing, without overcoming, the darkness by which it is surrounded.

It may, therefore, be easily conceived into what singular adventures a man of Mr. Crampton's magnificent mind and scanty means was driven during his professional vagrancy. His mighty soul "swelled beyond the measure of his chains," and he sought the first, or any means, that might offer to rescue him from the bonds of his narrow circumstances. He was then young, some would say handsome, and certainly accomplished in all the arts of fashionable life. In the field, and at the chace, he was the envy of his own sex. The ladies declared him the finest gentleman at the review; and it must be confessed, that in the ball-room, his heels did ample honour to his head; for in the graceful evolutions of the waltz, or the more lively movements of quadrille, there are few, even to this day, of living harlequins who could excel him. To a man possessed of so many mental and personal attractions, it is not at all wonderful that matrimony presented prospects of happier days, and that some fair damsel of fortune, just wandering on the confines of desperation, would rescue him from poverty, and consign him at once to independence and to bliss. But, to the eternal discredit of female discrimination be it recorded, that so great a combination of charms, recommended too in the seducing dress of a scarlet coat, was suffered, for many a year, to circulate the rounds of fêtes and follies unnoticed and unrequited by the conquest of a single heart.

It was in this melancholy plight that he arrived in Athlone, with a heavy heart and a light purse, while his boots, as we have been told by one who saw them, gave unequivocal symptoms of their master's decline, by gaping into sorrowful and unseemly chinks. Still reposing, however, upon the supremacy of his charms, he sought to keep up appearances by turning to advantage the introductions to notice which a respectable profession and a commission in his Majesty's service always confer in new quarters. "Ways and

Means" is a comedy of ephemeral utility, as the plot is soon detected; and the lilly-handed, rosy-cheeked Mrs. Ganly Fallon, of the Athlone restaurateur, after some unsuccessful appeals at the mess-room, refused any longer to supply the hope-inspiring contents of her cellar to our military ranger. But what of that? life and death—pleasure and pain—are divided only by thin partitions; and, the moment when our fate wears its darkest aspect, the light of happiness may burst through the gloom. Nor is it wonderful (of such discordant elements is the world composed) that in their rapid and clashing confusion, that some harmonious tones are elicited, to which the heart of the way-worn pilgrim may beat in sympathetic vibration. So it was with Mr. Crampton; his circumstances having arrived at that critical point when matters invariably mend, female obduracy relented—he rose once more upon his heels, and danced himself into the graces of an amiable and wealthy young lady through the fascinating medium of an Irish jig. Thank Heaven! the gloomy part of the narrative has now come to a close—all henceforward shall be sunshine unobscured by a cloud.

To cut short a discourse which we fear is growing too luxuriant under our hands, we will state generally, that he continued for some time longer in the army—enjoyed a protracted honey-moon at various head-quarters, and was under surgeon Stringer in Limeric, who now, strange to tell, is lost in the fame of his quondam inferior. How fluctuating are the affairs of men? the wave that sinks thousands only serves to roll some favoured minion of fortune upon the wished for shore. Conceiving that travelling would shortly become troublesome, he turned his thoughts upon the capital, and determined on making it his future residence. Accordingly, he doffed the *insignia* of war, and devoted himself to the peaceful labour of attending those who preferred dying upon the "soft lap" of a feather bed to expiring upon the field of battle. Dawson-street was the place chosen for his abode, where he also commenced teacher of surgery.

From small beginnings what great results have not followed? The Amazon, that threatens the ocean with overflowing, may be traced to an inconsiderable spring; and "si magna componere parvis," the stable where horses chewed and grooms snored was the theatre where our embryo professor first unbound the energies of a mind which has since filled with wonder our little isle. Report attaches much importance to this course of *manger* lectures, but of what we have not heard we dare not speak. Be hushed, therefore, thou foul fiend of scepticism rebelling in our breast. It so happened, however, that a servant at one of the hotels in Dawson-street, whose voracity, it seems, exceeded his deglutitive powers, was nearly choked in attempting to swallow a piece of meat, which stuck in his throat. Mr. Crampton was called to his assistance—he operated of course—the man fortunately recovered, and the surgeon was covered with glory. This, we believe, was his critical case, and his first introduction to public notice.

The marriage of his sister to Mr. Bushe, now Chief Justice of the King's Bench, tended very much to his advancement. So respectable a connexion could not fail of introducing him to the best society, and it was probably in this way he became acquainted with his great patron the Duke of Richmond. A peculiar flexibility of temper, the polished manners of a courtier, and other companionable qualities, had so endeared him to this Bacchanalian representative of Majesty, that he patented to Mr. Crampton the Surgeon Generalship, ere death had made the situation vacant. Mr. Stewart, his late predecessor, did not detain him long in sickening expectation, for he shortly after paid the debt of nature, and, contrary to every law of justice and of precedent, Mr. Crampton was appointed his successor. Mr. Owberry, the gentleman to whom the situation should have devolved, in virtue of merit, service, and seniority, was offered some remuneration for his mal-treatment, but, with a magnanimity worthy of record, he rejected the proffered boon, and retired in disgust into private life upon half-pay.

This new appointment gave Mr. Crampton additional importance, and

it must be confessed that so great an advantage was improved upon with peculiar ingenuity. A splendid establishment was fitted up, where lords and ladies, colonels and captains, and all the titled vermin of Church and State, were served in a style little short of oriental magnificence. Nothing could exceed the "pomp and circumstance" by which his festive board was constantly surrounded. The delicacy of the viands was only equalled by the costly services of plate and china in which they were offered up to his sumptuous guests. The extravagance thus expended in catering for the capricious appetites of his luxurious visitors was soon and amply refunded in munificent fees. Every new *fête* only extended the circle of his acquaintance, and the fair dames whom he led up with so much elegance and skill through the dizzy mazes of the dance could not do less than have him to feel their pulse when confined to the couch of sickness or of ennui. In fact, Mr. Crampton became the fashionable doctor, and it was considered a heresy in taste, as well as an error in judgment, to employ any other medical attendant, until, like hope itself, he at length became "a wreath for each toil, a charm for every woe."

Well, if we could only picture to our readers his matchless approach to the sofa of a hypochondriac, or, my lady in vapours—there was "music in his very foot as he came up the stairs," which bespoke recovery, and told of happy days to come; and as he gracefully unfurled the perfumed "India," you would think the goddess Hygeia leaped from out the silken folds. Alas! the narrow limits of description; words can convey no adequate idea of sound or motion, and we must only leave it to our readers to imagine, with what peculiar taste and delicacy he would put those queer questions one would blush to indite; with what masterly command of voice and of countenance he would listen to and compassionate the tale of fictitious woe, until having extracted, by sympathetic artifice, the secret cause of all her sorrow, he confidently assured his desponding patient of a speedy restoration, which was half accomplished before he departed. But we must not intrude farther on these tender scenes of domestic distress; our rude pencil would but reduce them into the angular and graceless *contour* of the caricature.

Circumstances are seldom wanted to those who have once caught hold of the world to continue their grasp, for fortune is at least so far consistent as never to abandon those upon whom she deigns to smile. Lord Whitworth, at this period Viceroy of Ireland, happened to be seized by one of those bowel complaints which Nature very often inflicts upon gluttons, as a chastisement for the violation of her laws. Mr. Crampton was of course called in. All remedies had been tried—they all failed, and the vital spark was hastening fast to extinction: when lo! the invincible hero of our story puts off his "woollens," jumps into bed, and grapples with death face to face in the body of the moribund Duke. The caloric radiating from Mr. Crampton's warm heart re-animated his expiring patient, and just infused into his feeble arm sufficient strength to sign a draft of 500*l.* on the Bank of Ireland, to be paid to Mr. Crampton as a trifling remuneration for his devoted attention. Surely this ingenious and magnanimous mode of treatment deserved no less a reward. In the whole routine of medical practice, we have never heard of any thing equal to this. Heroes, to be sure, have died for their country—lovers for their lasses, and friendship has had its force demonstrated by the attachment of a Damon and a Pythias; but avaunt, Romance! where shall we find, in thy world of wonders, love so disinterested and sincere—so profound, as this attempt to restore the dying by a combination of these powers, applied in the novel but elegant formula of an animal fomentation? The sublimity of this act could not be lost upon an admiring world; for who is there amongst us who would not have that man for a medical attendant who would thus lay aside the dignity of his profession with his garments, to soothe the pangs of disease, and to "return sigh for sigh."

In addition to the 500*l.* the noble Lord, on his recovery, presented Mr. Crampton with a general's uniform, in which he shortly after appeared at the Castle of Dublin. Lord Norbury was one of

the party, but so completely had the new apparel transformed his old acquaintance, that he asked a gentleman standing by him, who that was who wore the general's uniform? the gentleman observed, it was the Surgeon-General. "Oh yes," replied the witty Lord, jocosely, who was never at a loss for a pun or a halter, "I suppose that is the *General* of the *Lancers*."

As we are on the subject of anecdote, we will detail another, particularly illustrative of Mr. Crampton's character. To ambitious minds only belongs the attribute of dissatisfaction with whatever they may have achieved. Alexander, as every person knows, having subdued one, is said to have sighed for the conquest of a second world, and Mr. Crampton, like the hero of old, having arrived at the limits of professional victory in his own, thirsted to extend his empire into another country. Intoxicated with success, and seduced by the partial representations of his noble friends on the other side the Channel, he resolved on transferring himself to a foreign clime, and if he failed in the attempt, it was surely, like Phaeton, in a great and glorious enterprize, which was neither more or less than the detrusion of Sir Astley Cooper from the throne of English surgery. To support him in this unequal contest he had, it is true, many and able friends, and ere he committed himself to the mercy of the waves he was assured that the mantle of royalty itself was to compose a part of his manifold shield. On his arrival, and as soon after as an opportunity served, it is said, that the noble personage whom he snatched from the grave presented him to the King, remarking at the same time, that Mr. Crampton was the gentleman who had saved his life. Whether from ignorance of the etiquette to be observed or not in the royal presence, or perhaps from an over anxiousness to please, Mr. Crampton, we are told, was not just the thing to suit his Majesty's taste; for with a *royal* smile, a thing of very dubious import, the King turned round, pointed to Sir Matthew Tierney, who was then present, and laconically replied, "There is the gentleman who saved mine." The patron and client thus abashed by the royal salute, Mr. Crampton immediately unfurled his sails, put to sea, and steered back once more to the "*Island of Saints*."

Although we had been long acquainted with this gentleman's modes of practice, his great manual dexterity, and all that sort of thing, yet in consequence of never having seen him in the didactic capacity, we were at some loss how we should proceed to describe his person, under circumstances favourable to this design. Fortunately, however, a clinical course of lectures, delivering at the present moment in the Meath Hospital by Mr. Crampton, resolved this difficulty. Well then, away we went, "with our martial cloak around us," on a very wet day in last November, to this institution, and having taken our seat amongst the expectant audience, we were led to suppose, from the apparatus on the table, that we were to have a dissertation on fractures. "Blessed are they," says Swift, "that expect nothing," a maxim which we invariably observe on these occasions. An anecdote of Napoleon, whom the lecturer called a *great man*, a pathetic episode of a clergyman and his wife, and the venerable simile (we mean from its great antiquity) of the watch and the clown, are all we can now conjure up from the recesses of our memory of this lecture. But what of the man himself, "Sit facie, sura, quali fude, dente, capillo quali?" Why, he came in, as all fashionable men do, just half an hour late, with a port-folio under his arm, in which was deposited the manuscript of his lecture. After a hearty salutation on the part of the audience, and a polite acknowledgment, embodied in a bow, by the professor, he composed himself in his chair, just as he would at home in his own drawing room. In doing all this, we confess we have rarely seen so much elegant mannerism combined with so much self-possession. The former so completely reconciled us to the latter, that we had nothing to regret from the total absence of modesty. Into such beautiful forms, indeed, has he wrought his *bronze*, and so highly polished is its surface, that with many observers it might pass for metal of more ster-

ling value. It is, to be sure, the mere creation of art, such as we daily see turned out of the mould of military manners.

Whether our remarks on his costume on a former occasion, were the cause of a reformation in his dress we will not pretend to say, but certain it is, he was habited in a plain, but elegant suit of black. No furs, no frogs, no flimsy filligre of braid and bullion were about him on this day; and we must declare it, as our opinion, that there was not so much as a *stays* in question. We never, indeed, saw him look better, nor more like one of his own species; for, on other occasions, he seemed to us half bear, half beaver, so completely had the pelts of these animals concealed his human form.

His features, by no means regular, and savouring a good deal of vulgarity, are, notwithstanding this drawback, particularly interesting and attractive. For this quality they are principally indebted to a pair of fine eyes, in which we think more of love than genius is manifest, and to a sweet smile eternally dwelling on his lips, that would liquify a heart of stone and win the confidence of the most suspicious. Such are the manners and features of Mr. Crampton; pleasing without any apparent exertion, and dignified without being in the least degree repulsive. The delivery of his discourses, and their style, made an impression on us—by no means a favourable one. His voice is loud and flexible, but from the construction of his periods, invariably antithetical, the enunciation of them must be monotonously emphatic. The regular recurrence of sentences thus punctiliously divided into two members, and the inflection of voice necessarily adopted in their delivery, gives a *see-saw* air to the whole, which very soon wearies an audience.

On the material, or substance of these lectures, we cannot dilate. The speaker seemed to have no object in view, no advice to offer his pupils arising out of his own experience, nor any favourite theory to inculcate. His discourse was a piece of fine patchwork, put together without any harmony of colour or reference to utility. When one reflects on Mr. Crampton's great opportunities, and contrasts them with the little he has done to record the results, a singular contradiction arises, and a comparison with other men is the necessary consequence. We are told he possesses genius—granted. We know he has had extensive practice; but has he added, we ask, any thing to the stock of surgical information? Let his petty satellites of the Meath Institution, who swell into a fancied importance in his presence, but who degrade the human character by their slavish devotion, answer this question. Why then are we to be eternally *bored* by comparisons with Desault, Cooper, Abernethy, &c.? It is the essence—the very test of genius, to create, to discover, and to improve on what has been already made known. Now if we are to judge of what Mr. Crampton has done in this way, we really tremble for his posthumous reputation. But let us not be mistaken in this point, or be understood as detracting from his great and extensive merits, for they are certainly of the very first order. All we mean to deny him is that great attribute which ever immortalizes the possessor, and forms the line of distinction between genius and mere talent. There is as much difference between two men possessing these mental endowments as there is between the inventor of the steam engine and the man that works it—between a Watt and one of his engineers.

We could easily account for the mistake into which Mr. Crampton's friends have fallen. He invariably performs the numerous experiments that are daily put forward in the world for well-known purposes, but which are very often nurtured in ignorance and propagated by credulity. While we profess ourselves the ardent admirers of rational experiment, we shall never countenance, by a concealment of our feelings, an innovation which would give one moment's pain to a fellow creature without a well grounded prospect of ameliorating his condition.

We happened to be present, some time back, at one of those scenes of scientific butchery at the Meath Hospital. The patient was a female: the complaint, if we recollect rightly, open scrofula of the knee-joint. A great con-

course assembled to witness the operation; it was quite a *gala* day with the dissectors—a festival, seemingly, held in honour of the virtues of "*Steel*." It was the first time, we believe, that the removal of the knee-joint was attempted here; we earnestly hope it will be the last. The operator, of course, accomplished his purpose with his usual dexterity. But could he have beheld, as we did, the contorted countenances of the spectators, the knife would have fallen from his hand, never to be resumed where it was not more imperiously indicated. To be present was indeed to be in torture. One man vented his feelings in a *wink*; a second in a *hem*; a third overcame his sympathies in a forced fit of laughter; a fourth put his fingers in his ears to shut out the wretch's screams; all, to be sure, admired, yet all disapproved; and before the performance was entirely finished, Colles cried out, in rather an audible tone, "by J——s!"—drew the door after him, and vanished. We saw this poor creature, a long time after, endeavouring to drag her limb with her, by means of sundry *wooden* contrivances. How much more preferable would amputation have been in this case; a wooden leg, to a useless member kept from falling asunder by bandages and splints. And, forsooth, this is called cleverness! admirable surgery! Very well, let it be called by whatever name the sanguinary desperadoes of the profession choose, but we shall never be cheated out of our judgment, or fear to expose such practice when it falls under our observation.

We fancy we already hear some heroes of wit and brevity exclaim against our prosing and prolixity, alas! for our own sake as well as theirs, we wish that we could treat them to something better. But we shall now only detain them while we inform them that Mr. Crampton was once, in practice, what his great rival Colles is at present—the attendant of every sick-bed in the Metropolis. We will not pretend to say which of them makes most by his profession, but we could easily tell who is oftenest consulted. Their popularity and sphere of practice are of a different kind; though both were in a great measure indebted to circumstances for their respective *quota* of patronage. Yet, with a trifling exception, Mr. Colles may be said to be the architect of his reputation, and, as it is to be presumed that he could not have raised so splendid a fabric without sound materials for its support, it will be in proportion durable and lasting. The one, if we be permitted to allegorise, was a plant of natural growth, reared up in open ground, braced by the shower, and strengthened by the storm: the other a delicate exotic, of morbid vegetation, fostered by factitious airs, and forced into premature flower. The oak, though one of the last of the forest to put on its "summer robes," makes ample amends for its vernal nudity by a long protracted verdure of shade, and resistance to the inclemency of winter.

These observations extend only to their rise in life, and it is by no means intended by the comparison to show in what their merits as surgeons, or their talents as men, differ. Indeed a comparison could not be well instituted between two men whose minds seem so differently constituted. Each has his own peculiar powers and excellencies, and it might be no easy matter, since both are so highly endowed, to adjust the balance. Lines of distinction might easily be drawn to point out in what respects they differ; but to divide the palm of superiority would be too much for us, leaving the invidiousness of such a task, as well as the uneasiness it might cause, out of the question. We shall therefore add this item to the long list of doubts and undecided matters, to which is generally applied "Grammatici certant, et adhuc sub judice lis est."

Our object in placing them beside each other, was not to separate them by the *odium* of a comparison: for we wish them united in sentiment, and successful in all their undertakings, as as they are liberal, enlightened, and friendly to the true interests of their profession. It is indeed much to be regretted that men whose co-operation is required in the present neglected and degraded state of the surgical profession, should be divided in opinion, and that any hasty expressions, certainly unwarrantable, delivered in a public theatre, should have driven the offended party to the summary

vindication of injury *by message*. Heaven knows, science has enough to contend with here, without impeding its progress on one side by abuse, and on the other by force of arms. We sincerely hope that, if any such differences should again arise, the assailants will abandon the pistol for the pen. To the mortal combats of this innocent weapon of defence we have no objection; let the parties *prime and load* as often as they please with "paper bullets of the brain"—wound by a syllogism, or kill by a fact—against the smoke of a theory, or the flash of an invention, we will never protest—but in such matters as these, we confess we cannot abide the smell of gunpowder.

ERINENSIS.

HOSPITAL REPORTS.

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

A Case of Compound Comminuted Fracture of the Tibia and Fibula.

R. S., a labourer aged 62, was brought to this Hospital on the 30th of last month, with a severe injury done to his leg, and was placed in No. 19, Accident ward.

He stated that a large block had fallen with great force, and had struck him a very heavy blow upon the middle of the leg. On examination, it appeared that it had produced an extremely bad compound fracture of the tibia and fibula. The last bone, however, did not seem to have received so much injury as the tibia, which was very much shattered and comminuted; the splinters crossing each other just in the centre of the wound. There were two wounds, one, however, much worse than the other, about three inches in length, and one inch and a half in breadth, just about midway between the knee and ancle joint. It had at first a very bad appearance; the edges of it seemed much lacerated, and great fears were entertained that mortification would ensue. The other wound was situated about three inches nearer the knee, of a small size; it seems to have been occasioned by a portion of the tibia, most probably the upper part of the fractured bone, having been forced upwards through the integuments, at the time the weight fell so heavy on the lower part, and of course depressing it. This looked very well, and will most probably heal. It became a subject of consideration whether, considering the advanced age of the patient, the very serious nature of the injury received, and the dreadfully contused state of the soft parts, and comminuted state of the bones, it would be better to have recourse to immediate amputation; to this proposition, however, the old man much objected, and from that cause it was determined to endeavour to save the limb, and trust to the efforts of *vis medicatrix naturæ*.

He was therefore placed in bed, the parts properly cleansed, and the leg and thigh semiflexed, and placed upon the heel, carefully bolstering up the leg from the knee to the heel, to prevent the sinking of the fractured ends of the bones. He was ordered some medicine to allay the constitutional excitement, and the spirit *evaporating lotion* to be applied constantly upon the leg.

Jan. 1. He seemed very quiet and comfortable; slept tolerably well last night, and does not complain of pain in the limb. Wound is looking extremely well. Ordered to continue the medicine and lotion.

3d. He is still free from pain; his pulse 68 and firm; the lower wound looks extremely well, and shows a disposition to granulate; the upper wound looks also well. The spirit lotion was ordered to be discontinued, and an emollient *poultice to be applied*.

5th. The appearance of the limb is still very favourable; the poultices to be continued. The patient, however, complains of rather more pain in the limb, but his tongue is moist, and pulse 70.

The heat of the skin is not much increased, and he has very little fever; his advanced age is sufficient to account for this, but whether the energies of the constitution will prove sufficient to repair such a serious injury, is rather doubtful.

Case of lacerated wound of the great toe.

G. H. was brought here on the 29th of Dec., with a contused and lacerated wound of the left great toe, accompanied with fracture of the metatarsal bone. He was directed to have an emollient poultice applied to the parts. He has since complained of severe pain running up the foot, leg, and thigh, to the abdomen, although he feels but little in the toe itself. The wound is certainly looking extremely well; some of the soft parts are sphacelated, and are partially separating; but it is feared whether he will escape so easily from so severe an injury inflicted on parts from which we are led to expect great nervous excitement generally to ensue.

The accidents brought here this week, are a scald on the head, face, back, and shoulders, from boiling water; the oil of turpentine was kept constantly applied for some time, and the man is doing extremely well. A case of fracture of the fibula, close to the malleolus externus; also a simple fracture of the femur. One case of fracture of patella. There is now a patient in Accident Ward, who fractured his patella about 9 weeks since, and who has recovered a very great degree of motion; he can walk with little or no limping, but upon flexing the knee powerfully, he feels still a degree of tenderness.

No operation has been performed here this week. The child in Lazarus Ward, from whom Mr. KEY extracted a stone, is doing remarkably well.

ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL.

No operation has been performed here this week, and the accidents received have been few and unimportant; such as a case of fracture of the ribs; a case of slightly contused arm; a case in which a patient attempted suicide; in this, however, he failed, and made merely two or three small incisions on the fore part and sides of the neck, not wounding any important parts. The patient is doing very well, but his manner is such as to justify the supposition of his being insane.

☞ Dr. ARMSTRONG'S valuable Lectures will be resumed in our next.

The Index and Title to Vol. V. of THE LANCET will be ready for delivery (*gratis*) with the next Number.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Z. must send us his name and address before we can insert his Letter.

We thank AN ADMIRER *for his hint, but the plan is impracticable.*

NAUTICUS *in our next.*

We will endeavour to obtain for AN OLD FRIEND *the intelligence he requires.*

The friendly Letter of A LONDON PRACTITIONER *deserves our thanks, and the suggestion shall not be lost sight of. It cannot be effected at present, as it would be a breach of contract, not implied, but real.*

We are much indebted to SCOTUS *for his scheme, and good wishes.*

A PUPIL *is informed that his Letter was destroyed.*

We are obliged to NICHOLAS PHLEBOTOMY *for the preference he has shown to* THE LANCET, *but his papers would not be exactly suited to its pages. They are left for him at our Office.*

AMICUS *is perfectly correct, the circumstance he alludes to could not have happened in the way it was stated.*

AMICUS VERITATIS *shall, if possible, be inserted next week.*

A CONSTANT SUBSCRIBER *would oblige by sending us an account of the cases he alludes to. Tracheotomy would certainly be unavailing.*

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